

This fine shell fell to my share the day that Captain Nares, his Officers, and Professor C. Wyville Thomson, Director of the Civilian Scientific Staff of H.M.S. Challenger Exploring Expedition. entertained a party of Australian Naturalists to a cruise outside Sydney Heads, to see the deep sea sounding and dredging carried out. And it is with pleasure that I name it after Professor C. W. Thomson. Other new species came up in the same haul, such as *Leda*, *Mitra*, *Terebra*, and *Marginella*; the rare *Typhis Cleryi*—Petit was also found for the first time on the New South Wales coast. It is recorded by Mr. G. F. Angas from the coast of New Zealand

\* 14.—*BITHINIA HYALINA*.

Shell turbinated, thin, glossy, shining, whitish under a brown epidermis, whorls 5, roundly convex, the last large equalling half the length of the whole shell, aperture somewhat lunate, peristome thickish, margins continuous

Length 4, breadth  $2\frac{1}{2}$  lines.

Hab. Eastern Creek, New South Wales.

This is the only species of *Bithinia* that I know of from Australia as being described. It is found in various parts of New South Wales, about Parramatta and Chatsworth; it is generally found in a corroded state, the apex wholly destroyed in some specimens and covered with a thick hard coating of mud; when washed in clean water and rubbed with a brush it is readily removed



“Mr. RAMSAY read a paper, entitled:—

Description of a New Species of *Ptilotis*, from the Endeavour River, with some Remarks on the Natural History of the East Coast Range, near Rockingham Bay.”

## PTILOTIS MACLEAYANA.

The crown and back of the head dark brown tinged with olive all the feathers being margined with black more largely on the sides of the occiput and over the ear-coverts, forming there a black patch, feathers on nape of the neck and shoulders olive brown, almost black at the tips, where they are centred with a conspicuous triangular whitish spot, lesser wing-coverts blackish brown, having a triangular mark of whitish brown or buff at the tip, greater wing-coverts and all the wing feathers blackish brown above margined with pale buff, the primaries and secondaries have a yellowish olive tinge on the outer webs, feathers of the interscapular region blackish brown, with a triangular mark of pale buff or whitish brown down the centre of each feather, but frequently on the outer web only, those feathers nearest the shoulders having a yellowish tinge, rump and upper tail coverts olive brown. A narrow bare space below the eye yellowish; sides of the face and a line round the eye, buff, the ear coverts and patch of pointed feathers behind them bright wax yellow; chin light brown or grey, tinged with olive; from the base of the lower mandible extending underneath the eye to the ear-coverts is a narrow band of olive brown; chest light olive yellow, the feathers pointed and conspicuously tipped with bright wax yellow; breast light brown, each feather margined and tipped conspicuously with yellow; near their centre on either web an irregular triangular shaped spot of blackish brown, being less distinct on the feathers nearest the flanks and abdomen; flanks light brown, tinged slightly with olive brown; abdomen and under tail-coverts buffy white; under surface of the tail-feathers dark brown, edged with buff on their inner webs; inner webs of wing feathers on the under surface broadly margined with the same tint; under wing coverts light buff; under surface of shoulders margined with yellow. Bill black, feet and legs blackish lead colour, iris dark reddish brown, gape yellow.

Total length,  $6\frac{1}{2}$  inches; bill from forehead 1 inch, from angle of the mouth to tip  $1\frac{1}{16}$  inch; wings from flexure  $3\frac{1}{2}$  inches; tarsi  $\frac{7}{8}$  inch; tail 3 inches.

The sexes are alike in plumage.

Hab. north-east coast of Australia.

This fine species of *Ptilotis*, which I propose naming in honour of our distinguished President, is closely allied to *Ptilotis versicolor* of Gould (Birds of Aust., vol. iv., pl. 34), differing somewhat in the general markings, but chiefly in the absence of the white patch behind the ear-coverts and the black and yellow markings on the sides of the head; the bird is about the same in size, and curiously enough has every appearance of being a young bird, so much so that, although I have been acquainted with this bird for some time, I deferred describing it until several more specimens were obtained. In some notes sent to the Zoological Society of London in 1868 (proc. Zool. Soc., 1868, p. 386, sp. 25, *P. Versicolor?*), I erroneously entered it as the young of *Ptilotis versicolor* (of Gould). I have since, however, through the kindness of Mr. Macleay, been enabled to examine several fine specimens obtained by his collector, Edward Spalding, near Cooktown, and have no doubt whatever of its being a fully adult bird of a distinct species.

The original specimen referred to in my list of birds from Rockingham Bay, published in the Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London in 1868 (Proc. Zool. Soc., 1868, p. 386, No. 25) was obtained by Spalding near Cardwell, and was the only one seen during his stay in that locality. During my last Natural History excursion to those parts, I was fortunate enough to obtain three others on the Herbert River, some 30 miles south of Cardwell. It is a quiet retiring species, in habits resembling *Ptilotis Lewinii*, and frequents the scrubs and bushes fringing the River Herbert. Its note is a feeble cry, resembling that of *Ptilotis chrysops*. The young assume the plumage of the adult at an early stage. This species, as far as it is yet known, has a very limited range, being confined to the brushes and scrubs of the east coast, from the River Herbert to Cooktown, on the Endeavour River. I found this district one of the richest fields for the pursuit of Natural History in Australia, and one which has almost been untouched, I found there nearly 300 species of Birds, including 10 species new to Science; several new Mammals—including a musk rat, and numerous bats.

A large tiger-cat has also been seen on more than one occasion, which may possibly turn out to be a new species of the genus *Felis*, none of which have hitherto been discovered in Australia.

The scrubs teem with insect life; large green and golden spotted Butterflies (*Ornithoptera cassandra*), with the grand blue *Papilio ulysses*, are among the commonest. On one occasion I obtained over 200 specimens of these beautiful insects before 9 a.m. Two, if not three, species of aligators and crocodiles inhabit the rivers, which makes it particularly interesting to the traveller in crossing; one specimen, however, *Crocodylus Johnstoni*, named after its discoverer Inspector Robert Johnstone, who forwarded the first and still unique specimen to the Australian Museum, is comparatively harmless, and only found in the head waters of the rivers and creeks and mountain streams; it never inhabits the lagoons, nor has it been observed in the main streams or near the coast.

---

Mr. MACLEAY exhibited a series of specimens of Entozoa and Epizoa taken from a Sunfish captured by Mr. Brazier at Port Stephens on the 28th of November, 1874.

Mr. MACLEAY read the following explanatory notes:—

The small bottle marked No. 1 contains specimens of *Bothriocephalus microcephalus* (Rudolphi). This worm was found in amazing quantity throughout the intestines. I have now in my museum a one-gallon jar of spirits almost full of a nearly solid interwoven mass of these cestodes; indeed, so tangled and knotted are they, that it took Mr. Masters and myself much time and trouble to separate a few specimens for exhibition. A few small ones we got out perfect, but in no instance were we able to get the larger strobilæ in a perfect state. We succeeded, however, in unravelling one nearly perfect which measured over five feet in length, and as there are about sixty proglottides to the inch, the whole strobila must have consisted of nearly 4,000 individuals or segments. The average width of a proglottis is about a quarter of an inch.

No. 2 bottle contains specimens of *Tetrarhynchus reptans* (Rudolphi). This is also a cestode worm, but differs from the tape worms generally in its habit of making a tube or sheath, in